GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:49
ANSWERED ON:21.10.2008
REVIEW OF SEZ POLICY
Acharya Shri Prasanna;Rana Shri Kashi Ram

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) approved, investments made, Zones notified and pending so far alongwith the SEZs which have started operating during each of the last three years and the current year, Statewise, location-wise and date-wise;

(b) whether complaints/representations have been received demanding review of the SEZ policy in view of its social, economic and or other concerns;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is reviewing the policy of SEZ and the SEZ Act; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH)

a) to e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.49 FOR ANSWER ON 21ST OCTOBER, 2008 REGARDING "REVIEW OF SEZ POLICY"

(a): A statement of formally approved/notified SEZs State-wise is enclosed along with investment and pending applications. In this connection website www.sezindia.nic.in may kindly be referred for further details.

(b) to(e): Representations have been received from various stake-holders on a number of issues including inadequate compensation for the land acquired, rehabilitation of displaced persons, compulsory acquisition of land, diversion of land from agriculture for SEZ purposes, need for adequate infrastructural requirements of SEZs, land used for activities in the non-processing area, maximum size of land that should be permitted for SEZs.

An Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) periodically deliberates on various important issues concerning the SEZs and takes appropriate decisions, Decisions taken by the EGOM include: fixing an upper ceiling of area requirement for multi product SEZs at 5000 ha., preference to be given for wasteland for SEZs; otherwise for single crop land; if not, only 10% of double crop land to be acquired for multi-product SEZs, no Board of Approval (BoA) clearance for SEZs where State Governments have carried out or propose to carry out compulsory acquisition of land for such SEZs after 5th April, 2007, etc. Government have proposed amendment of Land Acquisition Act for obtaining reasonable market price for the land as well as institution of a policy for rehabilitation and resettlement. Currently, there is no proposal to amend the SEZ Act.